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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
JUN 18 1958
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

COPY NO. 1 SERIES A

FROM : Amembassy TAIPEI 756 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

June 11, 1958 to CO
DATE

REF : Deptel 729, dated May 1958
Embtel 1000, dated May 27, 1958 5-2758-FE

Action Taken no action

15 For Dept. Use Only	ACTION FE	INFO DEPT. RM/R IRC S/S S/P C G INR POLAD CINCPAC, HONOLULU TOKYO
	REC'D 6/16	OTHER

Date of Action June 18, 1958

SUBJECT: Discontinuance of Operations on Taiwan by the 253rd United States Army Security Agency Detachment

In accordance with instructions contained in Department Telegrams under reference, the Embassy and Chief, MAAG, Taiwan, have informed the appropriate officials of the Chinese Government that the 253rd Army Security Agency Detachment will cease operations on Taiwan June 30, 1958.

Enclosure #1 is a copy of a letter by which Chief, MAAG, informed the Chief of Staff, Ministry of National Defense, that for reasons of economy the activities of the 253rd ASA Detachment are being discontinued and pointed out that the training of Chinese Army personnel in electronic intelligence will be discontinued also.

Enclosure #2 is a copy of a memorandum dated May 27, 1958 by which the Embassy informed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the same effect.

At the time the Embassy delivered the memorandum to the Foreign Ministry, it was stated orally that inasmuch as complete details concerning the mechanics of the close out of the unit were not presently available, a further discussion relating to the release of the site and the buildings thereon might be necessary. This aspect was referred to in the Embassy's telegram under reference. At the Embassy's request, the Commanding Officer of the 253rd queried his superiors in Japan and has since been informed in reply that the Army Security Agency has no interest in retaining access to the site or in attempting to work out a residual value settlement with Chinese authorities.

The Signal Section of MAAG, Taiwan, which office has been the normal liaison between the Ministry of National Defense and the 253rd regarding the training extended the Chinese, has not been approached directly by MND since that Ministry received the notice of discontinuance of operations from Chief, MAAG. However, the office of the Chief of Staff, MND, has used two avenues to seek clarification. An Assistant Chief of Staff, MND, asked the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, USTDC/MAAG, for clarification. A high ranking staff member of the Chinese Air Force inquired of the Embassy's Air Attache. Apparently no adverse comment was proffered by the Chinese officials and these conversations were confined to matters of the unit's identification and reasons for its departure; reasons cited by the American officers approached were in line with those contained in the official notices (Enclosures #1 and #2) relating to the need for economies.

793.5/6-1158 HBS

FILED JUN 24 1958

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has not yet expressed any reaction. However, Dr. HSU Shao-chang, Director, American Affairs Bureau, was absent from Taiwan at the time the Embassy delivered its memorandum. It may be that in due course of reviewing matters which transpired in his absence Dr. Hsu will ask the Embassy further about the unit's departure.

ACTION REQUESTED:

Department please pass copies to American Embassy at Tokyo and CINCPAC for POLAD.

For the Ambassador:

David L. Osborn
Counselor of Embassy for
Political Affairs

2 Enclosures
As Stated

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Page 1 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 756
From Amembassy Taipei

COPY

HEADQUARTERS
UNITED STATES TAIWAN DEFENSE COMMAND
AND
MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUP, TAIWAN
Office of Chief MAAG
APO 63
San Francisco, California

USTDC-MAAG
01/EH:rhu
A3-1
Ser: 0221

24 May 1958

SUBJECT: 253rd U.S. ASA Detachment

TO: General Wang Shu-Ming
Chief of Staff
Ministry of National Defense
Government of the Republic of China
Taipei, Taiwan, China

1. Information has been received in this office that, due to an economy program currently underway in the United States Government, the Department of the Army has decided to discontinue the operations of the 253rd U.S. ASA Detachment presently stationed on Taiwan and located at Linkou. It has been ascertained that the 253rd U.S. ASA Detachment will discontinue operations by 1 July 1958.

2. Officers of the Chinese Army have been receiving training in electronics intelligence (ELINT) with this detachment. This economy move will unfortunately preclude further ELINT training after the class which began April 7 is completed.

F.S. BOWEN, JR.
Major General, USA
Chief MAAG

Copy to:
CO 253rd ASA (2 cy)
CO 176th ASA
American Embassy
J-5
J-7

CONFIDENTIAL

COPY

MEMORANDUM

A memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, dated April 28, 1955, authorized the continued operation in Taiwan of an United States electronic countermeasures unit, then also known as the 9493rd TSU, whose entry into and operations in Taiwan were first agreed to by the Ministry's memorandum dated May 15, 1953. The name of the unit was subsequently changed to the 253rd Army Security Agency Detachment.

The Embassy wishes to advise the Ministry that the Chief, United States Military Assistance Advisory Group, has recently informed the Chief of Staff, Ministry of National Defense, that due to an economy program currently under way in the United States Government, the 253rd United States Army Security Agency Detachment will discontinue operations by July 1, 1958. The personnel and equipment of the unit will depart Taiwan shortly thereafter.

The discontinuance of the operations of this unit will of course make it impossible for the United States to continue supplying the Chinese Government raw data gathered by the unit and will preclude further on-the-job training for officers of the Chinese Army after the class which began April 7, 1958, is completed.

Embassy of the United States of America,

Taipei, May 27, 1958.